THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) A proposal to enact a legislation for Unorganised Sector Workers is under consideration of the Government.

Bonded child labour

1279. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children under fourteen years of age who are still employed as bonded labourers in the country;

(b) the number of children out of these that have fallen prey to sexual exploitation during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government are soliciting NGOs' support Nationally and Internationally to curb this menace of bonded labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any discrimination amongst child bondage and adult bondage. No separate data on child bondage is provided by the State Government.

(c) Yes Sir. Social workers/NGOs have been associated with the Vigilance Committee at District and Sub-Divisional levels as per Section 13(2) of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

Problems of unorganised workers

1280. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey to assess the problems and conditions of unorganised workers;

(b) if so, the sectors where unorganised workers suffer more; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve their lot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government carries out surveys on the working and living conditions of unorganised sector workers in selected industries/occupations from time to time. Since the surveys of

different categories are conducted at different point of time, no comparison can be drawn. The Government has taken several steps to improve the lot of the unorganised workers. The Government has set up five welfare funds to provide social security to the specified unorganised workers such as beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers to provide health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water etc. The Janshree Bima Yojana provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including unorgainsed workers who are below and marginally above poverty line. Recently, the Government has launched Universal Health Insurance Scheme and Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana which will amongst others cover the unorganised workers also. Further, social protection to the unorganized workers is also available under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). It is also proposed to enact an umbrella legislation on the unorganised sector workers with a view to provide them social security and labour protection.

Strike by labour organisations

†1281. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nation-wide strike was called by the different labour organisations on the 21st May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the loss suffered by each sector due to the strike; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strike was called in support of the Eight Point Charter of Demands. The main demands raised by the trade unions are annexed as Statement. (*See* below)

(c) According to information provided by Labour Bureau, production and wage loss suffered in the Central Sphere due to the nation wide strike on 21.5.2003, was around Rs. 47.2* crore and Rs. 15.6* crore.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

*Provisional.